

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Elections

The meeting was called to order by Representative Richard L. Harper at
Chairperson

9:00 a.m. a.m./p.m. on February 24,, 1983 in room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: All Members Present

Committee staff present: Ramon Powers, Legislative Research Department
Arden Ensley, Revisor of Statute's Office
Eric Rucker, Secretary of State's Office
Dottie Musselman, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Peterson, District 33, Kansas City
Representative Brady, District 6, Parsons, Kansas
Jack H. Brier, Secretary of State, Topeka, Kansas
Senator Johnston, District 14, Parsons, Kansas
Marilyn Chapman, Sedgwick County Election Commissioner

Chairperson Harper called the meeting to order. At this time, the Chairperson called upon Representative Peterson to explain his bill, HB 2400, An Act relating to elections; concerning voting by challenged voters. Following the explanation of HB 2400, a general discussion was held. There being no other questions at this time, Chairperson Harper closed the hearing on HB 2400.

Chairperson Harper now asked Representative Peterson to explain his other bill, which is HB 2406. Representative Peterson said this bill is merely a clean-up bill on ballot forms for certain question submitted elections. Following a short discussion, and there being no other questions, the Chairperson closed the hearing on HB 2406.

Next up on the agenda was HB 2429. Chairperson Harper called upon Representative Brady to explain his bill, HB 2429, An Act relating to elections; amending the campaign finance act; concerning the filing of reports by treasurers.

There was a brief discussion, and some questioning which followed his explanation of his bill. Chairperson Harper, at this time, noted that the Public Disclosure Commission had informed him that they have no position on this bill at the present time.

There being no more questions, the hearing was closed on HB 2429.

The next order of business on the agenda was HB 2470, An Act relating to elections; concerning the presidential preference primary. At this time, Chairperson Harper called Jack Brier, Secretary of State, to the floor to give the Committee an explanation of this bill. Mr. Brier urged the House Elections Committee to reestablish a presidential preference primary in Kansas.

After general discussion and questioning, Chairperson Harper thanked the Secretary of State for his testimony on HB 2470.

Marilyn Chapman, Sedgwick County Election Commissioner, was the next conferee called to testify on HB 2470. Ms. Chapman urged the Committee's consideration of this bill, and hoped that the Committee would pass it favorably. *Atch. 1*

Senator Johnston, District 14, Parsons, Kansas, was now called to the floor to testify on HB 2470. The Senator appeared before the Committee in favor of this bill. This is a bill that the Senator has been trying to get revived in Kansas for several years, and he stated that it's not an easy job.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Elections,
room 521-S, Statehouse, at 9:00 a.m. on February 24, 1983

After some general discussion, Chairperson Harper called the hearing closed on HB 2470.

The next order of business on the agenda was final action on bills previously heard. The first bill being HB 2205, An Act relating to elections; concerning the appointment of deputy county election officers at high schools.

Representative Blumenthal moved that the bill be amended with the appropriate revisions. Representative Helgerson seconded. Motion carried.

Representative Blumenthal moved to report HB 2205 favorably. Representative Helgerson seconded the motion.

A substitute motion was made by Representative Fox to table HB 2205, HB 2198 and HB 2240, and recommended that an interim committee be appointed to study the election laws as related to registration. Seconded by Representative Baker.

A division was requested on the above substitute motion, 6 members approved, 10 opposed. Motion failed.

Representative Blumenthal made a motion to report HB 2205, as amended, as favorable. Representative Justice seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next order of business on the agenda was HB 2015.

Representative Crumbaker moved that the Committee support HB 2015, and report it favorably as amended. Seconded by Representative Acheson. Motion carried.

HB 2050 was next on the agenda for final action.

Representative Fox made a motion that HB 2050 be adopted as amended. Seconded by Representative Acheson. Motion carried.

Representative Blumenthal moved that the Committee report HB 2050, as amended, unfavorably. Seconded by Representative Helgerson. Motion failed.

Representative Crumbaker opposed the above motion.

Representative Guldner made a motion to pass out HB 2050 as amended. Representative Moomaw seconded. Motion passed.

Next on the agenda was HB 2177.

Representative Blumenthal moved that HB 2177 is of a non-controversial nature, and that it be placed on the consent calendar. Representative Fox seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

(attachment 1)



SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

COMMISSIONER OF ELECTIONS

Marilyn Chapman

COUNTY COURTHOUSE • 510 NORTH MAIN • WICHITA, KANSAS 67203-3798 • TELEPHONE (316) 268-7101

February 24, 1983

The Presidential Preference Primary will allow the voters of Kansas to express their opinions in 1984. This election will attract the attention and interest of candidates for the presidency and to bring them to Kansas so that we may have the opportunity to judge their merits. Kansas is frequently overlooked or ignored by candidates who feel that only states with national primaries deserve their attention.

The primary process in national elections involves the grass roots of the American public. It encourages party loyalty and the participation and interest of voters. During the past ten years in Sedgwick County voter participation in August primary elections has ranged from 22 per cent to 35 per cent. In the Presidential Preference Primary held in 1980 voter turnout rose to 40 per cent, the highest in a decade.

From a strictly professional standpoint I am opposed to the Presidential Preference Primary because it means a lot more work for the election office. But as a concerned citizen I feel very strongly about the need for Kansas voters to have a voice in the future of our nation.

I urge your careful consideration of this bill and hope that you will pass it favorably.

ALC 1

TOTAL REGISTRATION AND VOTE
Sedgwick County, Kansas

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Unaffiliated</u>	<u>Question</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
1976						
Registration	44,242	50,020	60,566		154,880	
Vote	19,576	29,843			49,554	31
1978						
Registration	47,287	57,839	64,748		169,963	
Vote	30,787	26,051		2,678	59,516	35
1980						
Registration	65,412	71,305	57,284		194,075	
Vote	22,978	22,111			45,089	23
1982						
Registration	59,616	62,846	59,735		182,297	
Vote	31,086	24,188		1,413	56,687	31

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY

Registration	55,137	62,773	67,256		185,245	
Vote	37,939	34,612		1,618	74,169	40

PROPOSED COMMITTEE REPORT

Your committee on Elections

Recommends that House Bill No. 2015

Be amended:

On page 3, in line 93, by striking the word "before"; in line 94, by striking "the date" and inserting in lieu thereof "not later than the third day following the date upon which"; in line 106, by striking "statute book" and inserting "Kansas register";

And the bill be passed as amended.

Chairperson

PROPOSED COMMITTEE REPORT

MR. SPEAKER:

Your committee on Elections

Recommends that House Bill No. 2205

"AN ACT relating to elections; concerning the appointment of deputy county election officers at high schools; amending K.S.A. 25-2303 and repealing the existing section."

Be amended:

On page 1, in line 40, by striking all after "(c)"; by striking all of lines 41 to 46, inclusive;

On page 2, by striking all of line 47; in line 48, by striking all preceding "Such" and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"The county election officer may appoint one or more registered voters to be designated by the principal at each public high school as a deputy county election officer for the purpose of voter registration. The county election officer shall appoint such person only upon the request of the principal of the high school."

And the bill be passed as amended.

Chairperson

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

MR. SPEAKER:

Your committee on Elections

Recommends that House Bill No. 2050

"AN ACT relating to political parties; concerning precinct committeemen and committeewomen; amending K.S.A. 25-3801 and repealing the existing section

Be amended:

On page 1, in line 22, after the word "thereafter" by inserting "in counties not having a commissioner of elections"; in line 26, after the period, by inserting "At each primary election held in each even-numbered year in counties having a commissioner of elections, the members of the party residing in each precinct in each county of the state shall elect a man of their number as precinct committeeman and a woman of their number as precinct committeewoman.";

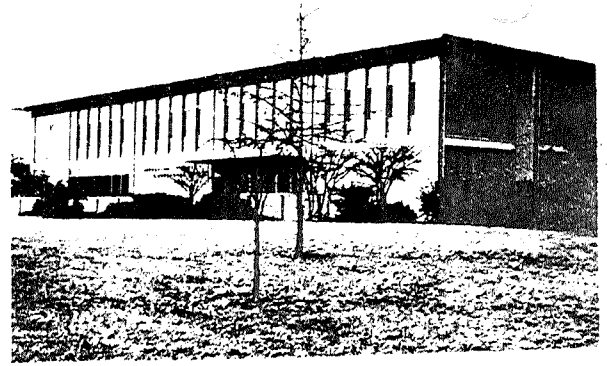
And the bill be passed as amended.

_____Chairperson

JEFFERSON COUNTY OFFICES

COURTHOUSE
OSKALOOSA, KANSAS 66066

COUNTY CLERK
ALYCE RIEDESEL
(913) 863-2272



February 15, 1983

Representative Richard Harper
House Chamber, Third Floor
Capital Building
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Representative Harper;

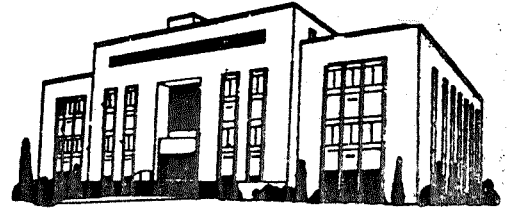
I would like to express my support for House Bill 2050 concerning election of precinct committeemen and committeewomen. The majority of the precinct people in my county think a four year term is a good idea.

I am very opposed to House Bill 2198 allowing voter registration at polling places on election days. This defeats the purpose of registration and I think it could open the way for election fraud.

Yours truly,

Alyce Riedesel
Jefferson County Clerk

SUMNER COUNTY



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WELLINGTON, KANSAS 67152

TELEPHONE 316/326-3395

SIBYL P. WHIPPLE, COUNTY CLERK

10 February 1983

Mr. Richard Harper, Chairperson
State Capitol Building
Room 175-W
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Mr. Harper,

I am writing in regards to an issue I feel needs prompt attention.

Due to the continuing excessive expense of elections, it is my opinion that the term of office for Precinct Committee Persons should be extended to four years.

In August of 1982 Sumner County had the expense of printing ballots for 41 precincts with almost every ballot requiring the write-in of names, and none of these write-ins had sufficient votes to be elected. It is an extreme expense that need not be incurred for just a short span of time; therefore, I am in favor of extending the term of office for Precinct Committee Persons to four years.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sibyl P. Whipple". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Sibyl P. Whipple,
County Clerk

SPW:jn